

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION VETERAN TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5957, the Federal Aviation Administration Veteran Transition Improvement Act, allows an important federal benefit to be extended to newly hired veterans at the FAA. This commonsense piece of legislation corrects an oversight in the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act that was passed last year. This act inadvertently excluded FAA employees from coverage.

One out of three veterans who served after September 11th report having a service-connected disability and more than two-thirds of those disabilities are rated 30 percent or higher. Mr. Speaker, just in my district, there are more than 40,000 veterans, of whom many have the skill-sets and aviation background needed to succeed in highly technical FAA positions.

This bill can help ensure that a veteran's service will not become an obstacle for future employment. I appreciate the leadership and partnership of Mr. LARSEN on this simple, important fix to an employment barrier for veterans in our nation.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 5957.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE CHOTVACS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Anne Marie Chotvacs, the clerk of the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, who will be leaving the Committee staff after more than twelve years of service.

Anne Marie joined the Appropriations Committee staff in 2004 and has worked on various subcommittees and for various chairmen since that time, ultimately becoming the clerk of the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee in 2009.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Anne Marie. She provides me with advice and information for many meetings, including those with foreign dignitaries here in the U.S. and overseas, as well as guides the Subcommittee legislation through the complicated and often difficult foreign policy and foreign assistance issues that arise each year.

Anne Marie is a dedicated professional. She efficiently manages her staff, and she sets an

example as a leader who has always been willing to put the Committee first. She has sacrificed countless hours, weeks, and years to further the work of the Committee and advance the interests of the United States in a responsible and fiscally sustainable manner.

I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. Anne Marie is the epitome of that statement. Congress, and I, will miss Anne Marie's contributions and leadership; but we thank her for her dedication and professionalism and wish her well in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ARMENIA'S 25TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I rise today to recognize Armenia's twenty-fifth Independence Day on September 21st.

Both the United States and Armenia share the belief that remembering our countries' heritages is critical to paving the path to tomorrow. In the first genocide of the 20th century, nearly 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. And, for much of the Twentieth Century, Armenia was under the brutal rule of the Soviet Union. Although history has presented the Armenian people with many challenges, they have always found a way to triumph in the face of daunting adversity.

The United States has consistently stood with Armenia over the last twenty-five years as the Armenian people have shown how a former Republic of the Soviet Union could transition into a thriving democratic nation-state. As we have seen around the world, new democracies will have their struggles. However, I am confident that the resiliency and strength of the Armenian people will allow them to overcome any obstacles challenging their country's bright future.

I would again like to congratulate the people of Armenia on their twenty-fifth Independence Day. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past and to look ahead to a future.

COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF AND RECENT STREET NAMING IN HONOR OF ERNESTINE ANDERSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Ernestine Anderson, who

was recently commemorated in Seattle with a street renamed in her honor. Ms. Anderson passed away on March 10, 2016. She was an internationally renowned and a beloved Seattle jazz vocalist. Ms. Anderson's career spanned over six decades and earned her four Grammy nominations. In fitting commemoration, Ernestine Anderson Way now spans the heart of Seattle's Central District, where her career started.

Ernestine Anderson was born in Houston, Texas on November 11, 1928 and began singing when she was 3 years old. Her family moved to Seattle in 1944 and she began singing in clubs on Jackson Street in the Central District as a teenager. During her career, Ernestine Anderson performed at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and in 1958 she performed at the first Monterey Jazz Festival.

After many years touring and recording music in Los Angeles, New York and London, Ms. Anderson returned to Seattle and briefly retired from music, working as a hotel maid and at a telephone answering service. Ms. Anderson is known for her song "Never Make Your Move Too Soon," which was recorded by B.B. King, and appeared on her Grammy nominated album in 1981.

In 2002, Ms. Anderson was awarded the Golden Umbrella by the popular Seattle music and arts festival known as Bumbershoot. In 2012, the Low Income Housing Institute named one of their projects Ernestine Anderson Place. These acknowledgements are a testament to the impact that Ms. Ernestine has had on Seattle.

Ernestine Anderson has left an indelible mark on our community and her legacy will live on through her music. A memorial service for Ernestine Anderson took place on April 9, 2016 in Seattle, Washington at the historical Paramount Theater. She will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JOHN MICHAEL ANSTETT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the words of Zachary Anstett, written in memory of his beloved father, John Michael Anstett. Zachary's words are as follows:

Whenever I think of my dad, the very first thing that always comes to mind is a familiar scene, not a particular one: perhaps our family's workhorse car needs to be fixed by tomorrow morning otherwise countless important lessons, orthodontics appointments, not to mention after school activities of soccer, piano lessons, and Martial Arts training will be missed. Which is why we are both crouched under the jacked up car (don't worry, this is likely where he teaches me about the safety jack stands provide us working under the car) everything looking like a black and white film in the harsh caged high wattage light-bulb's glow. I do believe I learned about the difference between

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

drum brakes and disc brakes and how technically, disc brakes are better but our car has drum brakes.

This scene is so familiar to me because it was in those times I could literally see him leave my time frame and go back to the early seventies. He's built himself and rebuilt himself an even better Chevy Camaro (obviously, red) and this car is legendary for spitting fire and raking in the speeding tickets all over north Texas. Not to mention the famous ticket you were most proud of: the one you received for disturbing the peace because your car's idle was too loud. You see he loved these things because he carefully built these things lovingly with his own hands—just how he built our family.

His first attempt at building a son obviously more flawed, contained more mistakes not for lack of love or care. Just maybe he spent a little too long trying to build as much in from the get-go. He named this project Chris and it remains one of the only things he made that was so full of love that nobody could every question this one most-important goal of the project. Not just to build a wondrous and wonderful human being: my brother. But to ensure this child would know he was loved not by saying it but by doing it. This child never went hungry, never had to be homeless, and got one of the best educations possible in that time at that space. This child indeed would become just as precisely crafted by hand as the Camaro.

Son number 2 was by name and by necessity different. He must have decided to hold back more on the built in features and leave some room for exploration, for curiosity, for discovery of the truth of things and how they behave in the world. A son who would rather go on a nature walk or be taken to a local park than sit in his bedroom reading voraciously as did number 1. Chris, in this way, added quite a bit to his own education and discovery. The end goal was the same: that they would learn and grow and know that one thing that could never be questioned, doubted, or denied: These two projects, these two things, made lovingly with his own hands would always be to him the pinnacle of his achievements, would always be what he was most proud of or loved the most.

In short: I feel the truth of the love he had for me, my brother, and my family and it is indestructible, absolute, and unending. I could never capture how I felt about my father and how he viewed the world and me if I simply and directly laid it all out. The sheer weight of importance of just one fact: that he made many sacrifices to his own life that ours might be better is indescribably massive.

Finally, if you knew John, I mean REAL-ly knew him, though he might not ever say it to you, you just knew he loved you dearly. His love was never obvious, conventional, or easy to understand. That was my dad: a man with a huge capacity to love and did so, clearly communicating it is the only flaw. But how insignificant is this flaw compared to the size of his heart? I love you Dad. I miss you so much already. I can't wait for you to hear me read it. Love, Zach

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to the family of John Michael Anstett.

RECOGNIZING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming Double Ten

Day, the Republic of China's, also known as Taiwan, national day, which falls on October 10th. As the House will not be in session that day, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

Over the past 50 years, Taiwan has undergone dramatic political, social, and economic changes and is now the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. This year, the people of Taiwan witnessed the third peaceful transition of power with the election of the first woman to the Presidency, Dr. Tsai Ing-wen.

There are important common values and principles that link the United States and Taiwan, including respect for human rights, freedom, and democracy and I commend President Tsai Ing-wen for reiterating Taiwan's commitment to these values.

Taiwan has been and will continue to be a reliable and vital trading partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached U.S. \$66 billion last year, making Taiwan our 9th largest trading partner in 2015.

Taiwan is a prosperous society, a major contributor to the global economy, and plays an important role in the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region. As such, it is troubling to know that Taiwan continues to be barred from a number of international organizations, many of which, like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), serve to promote safety and strengthen diplomacy among the global community. For the sake of passenger safety and international security, the country must be brought into the ICAO fold. Taiwan should be invited to attend the ICAO Assembly on a regular basis, enabling it to keep up-to-date with important matters and assist the Assembly in ensuring the safe, secure, and sustainable development of international civil aviation.

In closing, I applaud the nation of Taiwan for its strong commitment to democratic values and I wish them all the best at their celebrations in Taiwan and at the Twin Oaks Estate.

HONORING DEAN VICTOR WHITE

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dear friend, a business visionary, a World War II veteran, and a dedicated community leader from the Hoosier State.

Mr. Dean V. White passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. Dean attended the University of Nebraska and was a 1945 graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, New York. Dean served in the South Pacific during World War II as First Mate.

Dean joined his father's billboard company, White Advertising, in 1946. During his years at the helm of that company, he grew its portfolio with investments in real estate and hotel management and earned a spot on the Forbes 400 list. Dean, and his wife Barbara, created the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation where they provided scholarships for local students, helped expand the Crown Point YMCA, and engaged in remodeling the Lake County Courthouse through the Crown Point Community Foundation.

Dean was always interested in politics, but not from a partisan perspective or interest. You see, Mr. Speaker, like many we in this chamber encounter, Dean White cared deeply about his community, our beloved Indiana, and this country. He knew he was blessed by this great nation that allowed him to freely pursue his dreams and grow his family.

Dean understood well the meaning of American Exceptionalism and knew we are the 'last best hope on earth'. So Dean, unlike many others with his kind of blessings, made sure to be involved in his government. He was a leader in this regard and in so many other ways.

I am grateful for the brief time we had together and I always learned from him during our conversations. I pray for Dean's family, his associates at White Advertising, and all who had the honor of knowing this great man.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT M. KIRILA, US ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Robert M. Kirila, US Army, upon the occasion of his retirement. Colonel Kirila dedicated more than 25 years in the United States Army, with 19 years in Special Forces, most recently as Deputy Commander of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), in Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. It is my privilege to pay tribute to his honorable service to Northwest Florida and our great Nation.

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Colonel Kirila graduated Simsbury High School, in Simsbury, Connecticut in 1987 and immediately returned home to attend the University of Richmond. After graduating with a degree in Spanish, he was commissioned in the United States Army and served as a Platoon Leader in the 7th Infantry Division.

In 1997, Colonel Kirila graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning his Green Beret, and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). He served as Detachment Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, and Headquarters Company Commander during his tenure. He was then selected for duty in the Army Component Element at the United States Army Special Operations Command.

Upon graduating the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Colonel Kirila returned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) and served as Operations Officer and Executive Officer. In late 2005 he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as the Director of Forward Operating Base North (FOB-13), Taji, in the heart of Iraq. Here he earned the Bronze Star Medal where he is credited with synchronizing the operations of three diverse centers responsible for supporting combat operations spanning over half of Iraq.

Colonel Kirila's success in Iraq was rewarded with an assignment to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School where he served as Delta Company Commander and was responsible for running the legendary Robin Sage Unconventional Warfare Exercise for the Special